

6–6 or heavier than 223 pounds, carried the Panthers all year past bigger, stronger opponents. . . . It is perhaps the most belabored sports cliché, but when the Panthers looked at each other, they saw a whole greater than the sum of its parts.”

En route to their championship victory in Grand Forks, North Dakota, the Panthers won their second straight CIAA Championship on Saturday, March 5, 2005. Their remarkable season carries on the tradition of championship basketball at Virginia Union, which now has 15 CIAA Championships and three National Championships.

Founded in 1865, Virginia Union University is an Historically Black University dedicated to providing educational equity to African-Americans. Virginia Union welcomes diversity among its faculty and staff as well as its student body. In its founding days, Virginia Union's academic missions and social visions were ahead of their time. Now, more than a century later, Virginia Union University is still an innovating and inspiring place for college students and scholar athletes.

My colleague ERIC CANTOR and I would like to extend our enthusiastic congratulations to the Virginia Union University players and their families, Coach Robbins and the rest of his coaching staff, Virginia Union alumni, and the entire Virginia Union community for their remarkable accomplishment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 91, had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HAYS COUNTY SHERIFF DON MONTAGUE

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important achievements of Hays County Sheriff Don Montague, of my Congressional District.

Don Montague was elected Hays County Sheriff in 1996, and was re-elected in 2000. As a fourth generation Hays County resident, he began his law enforcement career in 1967 when he joined the Highway Patrol and he rose quickly through the ranks of Hays Counties finest. He has served prior posts as a Patrol Officer, Field Deputy, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain. Sheriff Montague was instrumental in forming and commanding the Hays County Drug Task Force.

Under Sheriff Montague's administration, the sheriff's department has evolved into a thriving, highly successful, and professional organization with unprecedented personnel and equipment growth. He currently holds a Master Proficiency Certificate and Instructors License with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education.

Sheriff Montague is a man who believes in the value of community involvement and intervention. He is a past director of the Sheriffs Association of Texas, a past President of the Texas Capital Area Law Enforcement Association, a past President Hays County Criminal Justice Association, a member of the Texas Crime Prevention Association, and member of the Texas Narcotics Officers Association. Don Montague is an example of proactive law enforcement in our communities.

Along with his many contributions to the people of Hays County, Sheriff Don Montague has been married to his lovely wife, Harpie, for 36 years and has 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff Montague has enriched the community with his vision and I am proud to have this opportunity to thank him.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT RODRIGUEZ

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Robert Rodriguez who is being honored at the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club dinner dance as “Mortgage Broker of the Year.”

Robert is a successful mortgage broker who was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico. His father, Higinio Rodriguez, was working for the Brooklyn Navy Yard many years ago when he sent for his wife, Rafaela Santos-Rodriguez and family, including a very young Robert who was three years old.

Robert attended Brooklyn College, majored in psychology and later obtained his real estate mortgage and insurance broker's licenses. He also served in the U.S. Marine Corps and received an Honorable Discharge.

Among many enterprises, he opened up Sunset Park Real Estate in 1980. It became a very successful and inspirational real estate firm in an up and coming neighborhood. In 1987, he became a founding member and President of the Fifth Avenue Merchants Association in 1987. Later, he was instrumental in converting that association to The Business Improvement District of Sunset Park. During this period, he became (and continues to be) a member of The Bay Ridge Board of Realtor and a member of the New York Association of Mortgage Brokers. Presently, he is President and sole owner of Dinero Mortgage & Funding Corp. located in Sunset Park. By helping people obtain a mortgage, Robert has personally helped many minorities in accomplishing their dreams of obtaining a home for themselves and their loved ones.

Robert is married to Julie Cardinale Rodriguez, a Loan Officer for Countrywide Mortgage. He has three children, Lisa, Robert Jr. and Shelly along with seven grandchildren. Robert is a wonderful example of how hard work and perseverance can lead to success. May this award inspire and encourage him to continue the important work he has already begun.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Rodriguez has been a leader in his community by building a successful business and helping his fellow community members realize their dream of homeownership. As such, he is more than worthy of re-

ceiving our recognition today and the award of Mortgage Broker of the Year. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

#### TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, DR. RAY DANIELS

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2005*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Ray Daniels, superintendent of the Kansas City, Kansas, school system, who is retiring after a distinguished career as an educator and administrator.

As superintendent of the Kansas City, Kansas, Public Schools for the last eight years, Dr. Ray Daniels has been called “the model for what superintendents could and should be.” He has devoted his entire professional career to the Kansas City school district.

This distinguished career began at Northwest Junior High School in 1965 where he worked as an English teacher and head boys' basketball coach. He later joined the faculty at Wyandotte High School and served as head track coach. Dr. Daniels worked his way up as an assistant principal at Wyandotte in 1973 and became Director of Personnel for the school district in 1976. He was named Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services in 1980.

When appointed superintendent in March 1998, Dr. Daniels immediately worked to close the achievement gap for minority students and students living in poverty, and to correct low student achievement, high dropout rates, unsafe schools, and poor attendance. He is recognized as being ahead of the curve, implementing reforms in his district long before the trend of stronger accountability became popular across the country. Dr. Daniels' efforts have paid dividends for Kansas City schools and our community. His district continues to see significant progress in reading and math achievement.

He has provided leadership and served on numerous community organizations including the KCK Area Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Wyandotte County, Heart of America Family Services, Cancer Action, the Wyandotte Health Foundation, Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries, and the Downtown KCK Kiwanis Club.

Dr. Daniels has earned the respect and trust of the community as he has led his district in becoming one of the most successful examples of urban school reform in America. The Kansas Association of School Administrators named Dr. Daniels the 2005 Kansas Superintendent of the Year and he was a candidate for the National Superintendent of the Year honor. Dr. Daniels was also named “Educator of the Year” by Young Audiences.

There is probably not a tougher job than serving as a superintendent of an urban school district and not a better person for the job these last eight years than Dr. Ray Daniels.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens and parents of Kansas City, Kansas, I say to Dr. Ray Daniels: thank you for your service to our community and our children. You will be missed!